

*News From U.S. Senator*

*North Dakota*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday

January 14, 2000

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## Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone Set to Benefit:

### **DORGAN WELCOMES PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO GRANT WAGE TAX CREDITS TO ROUND II EMPOWERMENT ZONES**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) --- U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan said Friday President Clinton's proposal to provide wage tax credits to Round II Empowerment Zones (EZ) will directly benefit economic development in Griggs and Steele counties. President Clinton outlined the plan Thursday as part of the Fiscal Year 2001 budget he will submit to Congress in February.

If enacted by Congress, the wage credits will allow employers in the Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone to claim a credit for up to 20 percent of the first \$15,000 in wages paid to each qualifying employee who works and lives in the Empowerment Zone, up to a maximum of \$3,000 for each employee. Many businesses within the zone may benefit from the wage tax credit, including a strawboard plant in Finley and a technical center in Cooperstown planned by the Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone.

"This is an important announcement and will significantly aid our effort to halt out-migration," Dorgan said. "These wage tax credits will be a vital resource for the projects underway in the Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone and others like it that are working to stem the tide of out-migration in rural areas."

The Griggs-Steele Empowerment Zone was the first EZ in the nation created to address the issue of out-migration, a designation made possible by a special legislative provision authored by Dorgan.

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